

Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said first date is an inception date of said investment portfolio, and said second date is a maturity date of said investment portfolio.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 28 wherein said at least one contract ~~sub-portfolio~~ comprises a futures contract.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 28 wherein said at least one contract ~~sub-portfolio~~ comprises a forward contract.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 28 wherein said at least one contract ~~sub-portfolio~~ comprises a swap agreement.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said feasible loss in notional value of said ~~contract~~ volatile sub-portfolio ~~represents~~ comprises a probable maximum loss in notional value of said ~~contract~~
5 volatile sub-portfolio.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]] 27 wherein said ~~asset~~ reserve sub-portfolio comprises a fixed income security.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]]
7 wherein said asset reserve sub-portfolio further comprises a
~~fixed income security and~~ a derivative contract.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]]
7 wherein said ~~determining said composition comprises~~
~~determining a future value of said asset reserve~~ sub-portfolio
~~for said second date, and wherein said determined composition~~
5 ~~is such that said feasible loss in notional value of said~~
~~contract sub-portfolio is less than or equal to a difference~~
~~between said future value of said asset sub-portfolio and said~~
~~highest marked-to-market value~~ further comprises a cash
equivalent.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9,
wherein said determining said composition employs a formula:

$$xE \leq Z(1+r)^m + K - HW$$

where:

5 E = a notional value of said ~~contract~~ volatile
sub-portfolio;
x = a fractional representation of said
feasible loss in said notional value of
said ~~contract~~ volatile sub-portfolio;
10 Z = a value of a note or a bond in said asset
reserve sub-portfolio;
r = a yield to said second date [[for]] of said
note or said bond in said reserve sub-
portfolio;
15 m = a number of years to said second date;
K = a value of a cash equivalent in said asset
reserve sub-portfolio;
HW = said highest marked-to-market value; and
Z+K = [[a]] said current market value of assets
20 allocated to said asset reserve sub-
portfolio.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1,]]
27 wherein said ~~determining said feasible loss in notional~~
~~value of said contract sub-portfolio allocation date~~ and said
~~determining said composition are performed~~ marked-to-market
5 date occur periodically.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11[[,]]
wherein occurrence of said periodic performance allocation
date has a period that corresponds to ~~that of a periodic~~
~~determination occurrence of said value for said investment~~
5 ~~portfolio~~ marked-to-market date.

13-24. (cancelled)

25. (new) The method of claim 12 wherein both said
allocation date and said marked-to-market date occur daily.

26. (new) The method of claim 10 wherein K bears a
fixed relationship to E.

27. (new) A method for managing an investment
portfolio, said investment portfolio including investments
divided among at least a volatile sub-portfolio and a reserve
sub-portfolio, said method comprising:

5 determining, on an allocation date, a highest
marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio on a
previous marked-to-market date falling on or after a first
date and on or before said allocation date;

determining, on said allocation date, a
10 feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio
between said allocation date and a next marked-to-market date
falling on or after said allocation date and on or before a
second date; and

determining, on said allocation date, a
15 composition of said investment portfolio, comprising a current
notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio and a current

market value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio; wherein:

20 said portfolio composition is such that a sum
of (a) a future value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio on said next marked-to-market date, and (b) a difference between (1) a current market value of said volatile sub-portfolio, and (2) said feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio as applied to said current
25 notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio, is at least equal to said highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio.

28. (new) The method of claim 27 wherein investments in said volatile sub-portfolio include at least one contract.

29. (new) A data storage medium encoded with machine-executable instructions for performing a method of managing an investment portfolio, said investment portfolio including investments divided among at least a volatile sub-portfolio and a reserve sub-portfolio, said instructions
5 comprising instructions for:

determining, on an allocation date, a highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio on a previous marked-to-market date falling on or after a first
10 date and on or before said allocation date;

determining, on said allocation date, a feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio between said allocation date and a next marked-to-market date falling on or after said allocation date and on or before a
15 second date; and

determining, on said allocation date, a composition of said investment portfolio, comprising a current notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio and a current market value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio; wherein:
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said portfolio composition is such that a sum of (a) a future value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio on said next marked-to-market date, and (b) a difference between (1) a current market value of said volatile sub-portfolio, and (2) said feasible loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio as applied to said current notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio, is at least equal to said highest marked-to-market value for said investment portfolio.

30. (new) The data storage medium of claim 29 wherein said instruction for determining, on said allocation date, a feasible loss in notional value comprises an instruction for determining a probable maximum loss in notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio.

31. (new) The data storage medium of claim 29 wherein said instruction for determining said composition comprises an instruction to employ a formula:

$$xE \leq Z(1+r)^m + K - HW$$

where:

E = a notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio;

x = a fractional representation of said feasible loss in said notional value of said volatile sub-portfolio;

Z = a value of a note or a bond in said reserve sub-portfolio;

r = a yield to said second date of said note or bond in said reserve sub-portfolio;

m = a number of years to said second date;

K = a value of a cash equivalent in said reserve sub-portfolio;

HW = said highest marked-to-market value; and

Z+K = said current market value of assets allocated to said reserve sub-portfolio.

32. (new) The data storage medium of claim 31 wherein said instructions for performing said method comprise an instruction assigning a fixed relationship between K and E.